CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of managing a web service provided by a plurality of servers coupled to a

data communication network, at least one of said servers executing a first version of the web

service, said method comprising:

executing a second version of the web service on a first server coupled to the data

communication network;

identifying a selected version of the web service based on a request from a user to access

the web service via the data communication network; and

providing the user access to the identified selected version of the web service via a client

also coupled to the data communication network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first server has the first version of the web service

executed thereon, wherein said identifying comprises identifying a selected version of the web

service associated with the first server, and wherein the first server provides said identified

selected version of the web service associated with the first server to the user.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating the first version of the web service

executed on a second server coupled to the data communication network with the second version

of the web service while the user is provided access to the identified selected version of the web

service by the first server.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first version corresponds to an older version of the web service and the second version corresponds to a newer version of the web service.

5. The method of claim 2 further comprising generating a first data stream associated with the user in response to the request and wherein identifying the selected version includes processing the first data stream.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the first data stream includes default data, said default data specifying a default version of the web service associated with the first server, and wherein processing the first data stream includes executing a filtering routine in response to the generated first data stream to identify the default version of the web service as the selected version of the web service.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first data stream further includes version data, said version data identifying a latest version of the web service accessed by the user, and wherein processing the first data stream further includes identifying the second version of the web service as the selected version if the version data identifies the second version as the latest version of the web service accessed by the user and the default data specifies the first version as the default version of the web service.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the default data specifies the second version of the web service as the default version after executing the second version on the first server.

9. The method of claim 8 further including specifying the first version of the web service as the default version if the second version of the web service is not stabilized on the first server, and wherein identifying the selected version includes identifying the first version of the web service as the selected version irrespective of a latest version of the web service accessed by the user or a version of the web service registered by the user.

10. The method of claim 8 further including removing the first version of the web service from the first server if the second version of the web service is stabilized on the first server.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein processing the first data stream includes:

receiving the first data stream at an authentication service executed by a second server, said second server also being coupled to the data communication network;

providing a web form to the user via the data communication network in response to the first data stream being received by the authentication service, said web form providing an interface for receiving a second data stream from the user, said second data stream including authentication data corresponding to the user.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

authenticating the user, by the authentication service, based on the second data stream; and

providing the authenticated user access to the selected version of the web service.

13. The method of claim 12 further including storing version data in a database, said version data identifying a version of the web service registered by the user, wherein authenticating the user includes retrieving version data identifying a version of the web service registered by the user, and wherein identifying the selected version further includes identifying the second version of the web service as the selected version if the retrieved version data identifies the second version as the version of the web service registered by the user and the default data specifies the first version as the default version of the web service.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the authentication data includes at least a valid user login identifier and a valid user password.

15. One or more computer readable media having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

16. A system to manage a web service provided by a plurality of servers coupled to a data communication network, at least one of said servers executing a fist version of the web service, comprising:

a first server coupled to the data communication network, said first server adapted to have a second version of the web service executed thereon;

computer-executable instructions to identify a selected one of the versions of the web service based on a request from a user to access the web service via the data communication network; and

computer-executable instructions to provide the user access to the identified selected

version of the web service via a client also coupled to the data communication network.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the first server is adapted to have the first version of

the web service executed thereon and to provide the identified selected version of the web

service to the user.

18. The system of claim 16 further comprising a second server also coupled to the data

communication network, said second server adapted to have at least the first version of the web

service executed thereon, further comprising computer-executable instructions to update the first

version of the web service executed on the second server with the second version of the web

service while the user is provided access to the identified selected version of the web service by

the first server.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the first version corresponds to an older version of

the web service and the second version corresponds to a newer version of the web service.

20. The system of claim 17 further comprising a first data stream associated with the

user and generated in response to the request, said first data stream adapted to identify the

selected version.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the first data stream is adapted to include default

data, said default data adapted to specify a default version of the web service associated with the

first server, and further comprising a filtering routine executed in response to the generated first data stream to identify the default version of the web service as the selected version of the web service.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the first data stream is further adapted to include version data, said version data adapted to identify a latest version of the web service accessed by the user, and further comprising computer-executable instructions to identify the second version of the web service as the selected version if the version data identifies the second version as the latest version of the web service accessed by the user and the default data specifies the first version as the default version of the web service.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the default data is adapted to specify the second version of the web service as the default version after executing the second version on the first server.

24. The system of claim 23 further comprising computer-executable instructions to specify the first version of the web service as the default version if the second version of the web service is not stabilized on the first server, and wherein the first version of the web service is identified as the selected version irrespective of a latest version of the web service accessed by the user or a version of the web service registered by the user.

25. The system of claim 23 further comprising computer-executable instructions to remove the first version of the web service from the first server if the second version of the web service is stabilized on the first server.

26. The system of claim 21 further comprising a second server also coupled to the data communication network, said second server adapted to execute an authentication service, said authentication service responsive to the first data stream to provide a web form to the user via the data communication network, said web form adapted to provide an interface to receive a second data stream from the user, said second data stream adapted to include authentication data corresponding to the user.

27. The system of claim 26 further comprising computer-executable instructions to:

authenticate the user, by the authentication service, based on the second data stream; and

provide the authenticated user access to the selected version of the web service.

28. The system of claim 27 further comprising a database associated with the second server, said database adapted to store version data, said version data adapted to identify a version of the web service registered by the user, and wherein the second version of the web service is identified as the selected version if the version data retrieved from the database identifies the second version as the version of the web service registered by the user and the default data specifies the first version as the default version of the web service.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein the authentication data is adapted to include at least a valid user login identifier and a valid user password.

30. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method to manage a web service provided by a plurality of servers coupled to a data communication network, at least one of said servers executing a first version of the web service, said method comprising:

executing a second version of the web service on a first server coupled to the data communication network;

processing a request from a user to access the web service via the data communication network to identify a selected version of the web service; and

providing the user access to the identified selected version of the web service via a client also coupled to the data communication network.

31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the first server has the first version of the web service executed thereon, wherein said processing the request comprises identifying a selected version of the web service associated with the first server, and wherein the first server provides said identified selected version of the web service associated with the first server to the user.

32. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the method further comprises updating the first version of the web service executed on a second server coupled to the data

communication network with the second version of the web service while the user is provided

access to the identified selected version of the web service by the first server.

33. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the first version corresponds to

an older version of the web service and the second version corresponds to a newer version of the

web service.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the method further comprises

generating a first data stream associated with the user, said first data stream generated in

response to the request for use in identifying the selected version.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the first data stream includes

default data, said default data specifying a default version of the web service associated with the

first server, and wherein said processing the request further comprises filtering the generated first

data stream to identify the default version of the web service as the selected version of the web

service.

36. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the first data stream further

includes version data, said version data identifying a latest version of the web service accessed

by the user, and wherein said processing the request further comprises identifying the second

version of the web service as the selected version if the version data identifies the second version

as the latest version of the web service accessed by the user and the default data specifies the first

version as the default version of the web service.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the default data specifies the second version of the web service as the default version after executing the second version on the first server.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the method further comprises specifying the first version of the web service as the default version if the second version of the web service is not stabilized on the first server, and wherein said processing the request further comprises identifying the first version of the web service as the selected version irrespective of a latest version of the web service accessed by the user or a version of the web service registered by the user.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the method further comprises removing the first version of the web service from the first server if the second version of the web service is stabilized on the first server.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 35 further comprising processing the first data stream for:

receiving the first data stream at an authentication service executed by a second server, said second server also being coupled to the data communication network;

providing a web form to the user via the data communication network in response to the first data stream being received by the authentication service, said web form providing an

interface for receiving a second data stream from the user, said second data stream including

authentication data corresponding to the user.

41. The computer-readable medium of claim 40 wherein the method further comprises:

authenticating the user, by the authentication service, based on the second data stream;

and

providing the authenticated user access to the selected version of the web service.

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein the method further comprises

storing version data in a database, said version data identifying a version of the web service

registered by the user, wherein authenticating the user includes retrieving version data

identifying a version of the web service registered by the user, and wherein processing the

request further includes identifying the second version of the web service as the selected version

if the retrieved version data identifies the second version as the version of the web service

registered by the user and the default data specifies the first version as the default version of the

web service.

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the authentication data includes

at least a valid user login identifier and a valid user password.

44. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for

managing a web service provided by a plurality of servers coupled to a data communication

network, at least one of said servers executing a first version of the web service, said computer-readable medium comprising:

an update component for executing a second version of the web service on a first server coupled to the data communication network;

a processing component for processing a request from a user to access the web service via the data communication network to identify a selected version of the web service; and

a providing component for providing the user access to the identified selected version of the web service via a client also coupled to the data communication network.

45. The computer-readable media of claim 44, wherein the first server has the first version of the web service executed thereon, wherein the processing component is adapted to identify a selected version of the web service associated with the first server, and wherein the first server provides said identified selected version of the web service associated with the first server to the user.